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Looking back 100 years

Members of the 78th Highlanders in First World War uniforms stand at attention during a press conference at Pier 21 in Halifax. Wednesday marked the 100th anniversary since HMTS Saxonia departed Halifax to transport soldiers to the war. Story in [metroNEWS](#). JEFF HARPER/METRO

Fuel leak nets costly cleanup

BURNSIDE BUS DEPOT

**'HRM failed' in
spill that cost
over \$2.6M:
Auditor general**



**Haley
Ryan**
Metro | Halifax

Halifax Transit should have realized thousands of litres of diesel fuel were leaking from their depot last year, the city's auditor general said Wednesday.

Larry Munroe presented a review on the fuel spill at Halifax Transit's Burnside bus depot in 2014 to the city's audit and finance standing committee. The spill ended up costing about \$2.6 million to clean, plus the cost of 200,000 litres of fuel that leaked into a nearby ditch and surrounding area over several months.

"The failure was not having

the right controls in place," Munroe said. "We believe that unfortunately HRM failed in its environmental stewardship."

Not only did the leak go undetected last winter, but it was only noticed in April by a nearby car dealership on Windmill Road and Halifax Water employees seeing an oily sheen in one of their ditches, Munroe said.

As soon as it was detected, Munroe said it took a further six weeks for Halifax Transit to determine the leak was coming from them.

Munroe made recommendations around better inventory tracking and using physical methods to measure how much fuel they have at all times rather than using dollar amounts.

"This is very serious. I'm not happy about it," Mayor Mike Savage said after the meeting.

"It affects our reputation, it affects us financially, it affects us environmentally."

Munroe said Halifax Transit

“

**Am I
disappointed?
Absolutely.**

Larry Munroe, auditor general

staff did notice an upswing in the amount of fuel needed over the winter months last year but "truly believed" buses were simply burning more fuel.

"The systems that we had in place could have been more robust," Halifax Transit director Eddie Robar told reporters.

Robar said that due to the review, they have now a better inventory-control system in place at both of their depots and someone will be physically checking the fuel levels in all tanks.

CAO Richard Butts said HRM is going through the courts to determine whether the contractors who put in the faulty fuel systems bear any responsibility.



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AG finds flaws in city's expenses procedures

CITY HALL

Electronic systems, more review recommended



Haley Ryan
Metro | Halifax

Halifax's auditor general is recommending city hall look into electronic systems to cut down on small but "embarrassing" mistakes.

On Wednesday, Larry Munroe presented a compliance review of expenses for city councillors, senior management, staff and the mayor that showed there are no major or systemic issues, but some room for improvement in areas such as paperwork going missing or errors made with reimbursement forms.

"Our objective is to not be in a position where the organization is questioned or ... where there's ambiguity or confusion," Munroe told reporters after the audit and finance committee meeting.

"They can become very embarrassing ... over very small amounts at times."

Recommendations included reviewing reimbursement forms and the policies around purchasing cards to make sure they still meet the operational needs, and potentially electronic systems for expense reimbursements to eliminate calculation errors.

CAO Richard Butts said he was happy to hear overall that Munroe had no major



Auditor general Larry Munroe speaks to reporters at Halifax City Hall in this file photo. Munroe said on Wednesday that there are too many "embarrassing" mistakes being made when it comes to council expenses. JEFF HARPER/METRO

issues with how expenses were being carried out, and agreed "automation is where we try to go with everything."

"We're working on those things with management," Butts said.

Although Munroe also recommended the "one-up" mechanism of having the mayor's expenses signed off by an "equal," such as Coun. Bill Karsten as chairman of audit and finance, Mayor Mike Savage said the idea of politicians approving one

“These are not systemic problems.”
HRM auditor general
Larry Munroe

another's expenses is not a good idea.

However, Munroe said there are also issues around having someone who works

for a politician, such as senior staff or the manager in a councillor's office, sign off on expenses when they might not feel comfortable bringing up concerns.

Savage places his own expenses online, which Munroe said is always a good idea. Having other councillor and staff expenses available would be "a value," he said.

"We are spending the taxpayers money; it would be the highest levels of transparency," Munroe said.



Mayor Mike Savage says politicians should not be approving each other's expenses. METRO FILE

FINANCE

LED streetlight project gets another green light

Switching the region's streetlights to LED power may cost \$7 million more than originally thought, but a new report shows the expense will still be covered in the same amount of time.

Halifax Regional Municipality's audit and finance committee

passed a recommendation to regional council Wednesday that would see LED streetlights designed, supplied and installed by GJ Cahill and Company, Ltd., for \$37.2 million over two years.

The committee also approved the total capital cost of \$47.6 million for converting the

streetlights, which staff said was a better estimate compared to the roughly \$40 million set out in 2013.

"This is a very important project," Major Mike Savage said during the meeting.

Greg Keefe, Halifax's chief financial officer, told the committee

he is much more comfortable with this figure, which takes into account contingency funds in case Nova Scotia Power rates move around, or the more than 400,000 new lights going in don't last as long as projected.

Savage pointed out that with-

out the switch to LED, the city would be paying \$7 million yearly in maintenance and with the change, about \$2 million a year, resulting in savings of \$5 million annually that would go into the reserve and pay off the lights by 2023-24.

HALEY RYAN/METRO

PILOT PROJECT

Collision centre closing

The Halifax Collision Reporting Centre is shutting its doors.

After eight months of testing out the centre as a resource to residents, Halifax Regional Police announced Wednesday that the pilot project will "cease operations" at the end of the week.

"A number of factors, including the ability of citizens to continue reporting collisions at local police stations, meant that we weren't able to fully realize the efficiencies and improved data integrity achieved by other police services," Supt. Sean Auld said in a news release.

Halifax Regional Police opened the Halifax Collision Centre to the public, in partnership with Accident Support Services International, last Sept. 10 at headquarters on Gottingen Street in the city's north end.

"While we are disappointed with the outcome, this has been a valuable learning experience for us," Auld said, adding the business model was given a go "at no expense to the municipality."

Halifax Regional Police said they're still looking for solutions to improve how they deal with collisions. METRO

IN BRIEF

Birch Cove Beach to fly the Blue Flag

Birch Cove Beach in Dartmouth continues to be one of the cleanest beaches in the world, according to Environmental Defence.

The Canadian organization gave the popular beach a Blue Flag designation Wednesday. It was one of only 26 beaches in Canada to receive the designation, which means a beach or marina is clean, swimmable, and meets safety and environmental standards.

This is Birch Cove's third year receiving the flag. The Halifax waterfront is the only marina in the province to receive the Blue Flag. METRO

Curriculum gets reboot

EDUCATION

N.S., teachers aim to improve learning for youngest pupils

Heide Pearson
For Metro | Halifax

A new curriculum for Nova Scotia students in primary school through Grade 3 was unveiled Wednesday by the provincial government during a professional development workshop at the Halifax Forum.

Education Minister Karen Casey spoke to elementary-school teachers who were there to learn how their classrooms will change come September.

"At the heart of the action plan is a fundamental commitment to make every classroom a place where teachers can teach and students can learn together," Casey said.

The new action plan, titled



Education Minister Karen Casey speaks at the Halifax Forum on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

The 3 Rs: Renew Refocus Rebuild, aims to make curriculum outcomes clearer for teachers and students, includes indicators of student progress and puts a heavy push on math and literacy teaching.

Casey worked alongside teachers to develop the new

plan. They heard from educators across the province about elements of teaching that they feel need to change.

Issues ranged from having too much curriculum to cover, having no clear indicators of students' learning and not having enough time for teachers

to become familiar with the curriculum before teaching it to students.

Casey said it was important to work with teachers on "The 3 Rs" to ensure the people making decisions about the classroom are active in how education works across Nova

“There are specific things that were taken out, but the big ideas that we’ve always taught will be implemented into the languages, arts and math.”

Teacher Michael Macdonald

Scotia.

"It means that as teachers, we're going to be able to spend more time with your students on reading and math," Michael Macdonald, one of the teachers involved in creating the new plan, said Wednesday.

The new plan will incorporate initiatives such as math mentors for students, more hands-on learning and a homework policy. It also emphasizes a stronger relationship between teachers and the school board. Changes will be seen in classrooms over the next few years, Casey said.

CONTRACTING

Energy program to open up

Nova Scotia's Energy Department says Efficiency Nova Scotia will make changes to one of its programs to open the market up to more independent contractors.

The move follows a review announced last spring after the government received complaints from two LED lighting supply companies about high incentives, unfair pricing and unfair practices.

The Business Energy Solutions program assists small- and medium-sized businesses with the cost of developing energy-efficiency plans and also offers rebates to help pay for upgrades.

The department says its review found that although the program met its performance standards, the use of only three delivery agents and discounts as high as 100 per cent made it impossible for local supply companies to compete.

Under changes expected to take effect Aug. 1, energy audits will be conducted by small-business energy auditors chosen through a publicly tendered process. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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NE0536115



Dartmouth High teacher Heather Hughes-Leck talks with her Grade 11 class on Wednesday.

JEFF HARPER/METRO

Inspired teaching

EDUCATION

Dartmouth High teacher a finalist for national award

Heide Pearson
For Metro | Halifax

A focus on student awareness and extracurricular activities has one Dartmouth High School teacher nominated for a national award.

Heather Hughes-Leck teaches English and sociology at the Victoria Road school. Outside the classroom, though, she teaches students to be more aware of the world they live in.

Another teacher saw the effort and care that Hughes puts into her students and nominated her for the Canadian Family Teacher Award.

Now, she's a finalist.

"I felt honoured, I felt overwhelmed," Hughes said.

She's the only teacher nominated from Atlantic Canada.

Hughes is involved with several groups at Dartmouth High that encourage student involvement within their community — and around the world.

As part of the Human Rights Club, she has taken students on service trips to the Dominican Republic. Students live in cane-cutting areas to help Haitians working in the sugarcane fields. They provide beds, stoves and housing.

She plans to take another group next March.

Hughes also helped the school raise \$1,000 in four days, which was donated to UNICEF

to help with relief efforts in Nepal after the earthquake earlier this month.

Hughes said it's amazing to see the students' enthusiasm for helping and making a difference.

"I think in terms of volunteering and making change in the world, (the students) can see that they can absolutely impact and make a change," she said.

Hughes is also involved with the Eco Club, which helps with a memory garden, organizes cleanups and arranged a local market for students.

The Canadian Family Teacher Award has three winners. Each teacher wins \$2,500 to put toward school supplies and programming for their school.



It's amazing to see; the kids have these huge plans and they want to help and they want to make change.

Heather Hughes-Leck

TRAVEL

Newfoundland, Cape Breton Island mixed up on tour map

L'anse aux Mea-D'OH!

If you Come By Chance to Cape Breton instead of Newfoundland and Labrador, perhaps a Calgary tour company's errant map is to blame.

Anderson Vacations has issued an apology, hopefully to the Heart's Content of residents in both provinces, after a travel brochure map that was every inch in error peppered Cape Breton with Newfoundland communities.

Whoops!

On a clear day, you can see the shores of Prince Edward Island from Gros Morne National Park. (Anderson Vacations)

People first called Bay Bulls—t on the labelling snafu on social media after towns like Deer Lake, Twillingate and Main Brook went all around the circle where names like Gillis Lake, East Bay and Dutch Brook should be.

"We apologize to our partners and friends across Newfoundland for the map error," Anderson CEO Corey Marshall wrote in a statement, adding his company's (not so) Happy Adventure began when the mistake was overlooked during proofing. The company also expressed regret on its Twitter feed.

"This does not align with our organization's passion for the province and the region."

METRO



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Masked men rob store

CRIME

Two threaten clerk at Needs with handgun, crowbar: Police



Philip Croucher
Metro | Halifax

Police in Halifax are investigating a morning robbery that saw men with weapons grab a female employee and force her around a store.

Halifax Regional Police say two men wearing masks walked into the Needs convenience store, located in the 0 to 100 block of Herring Cove Road, around 5 a.m. on Wednesday.

The men — one had a handgun and the other a crowbar — demanded cash and cigarettes from a woman working behind the counter.

The employee was grabbed by the men and forced around the store, police say in a release.

"It's unclear why they did



Police attend the Needs convenience store on Herring Cove Road on Wednesday morning. JEFF HARPER/METRO

that," said Halifax Regional Police spokesman Const. Pierre Bourdages.

He added she wasn't physically hurt, but went through a "traumatic experience."

After getting cash and

smokes, the men eventually fled in a silver, mid-size car with rust on the bottom of the doors.

Police say witnesses saw the car heading towards Withrod Drive.

The suspects are described as white men with slim builds who were wearing hoodies and masks on the lower parts of their faces.

The handgun was described as silver with a wooden handle.

+ INFORMATION

Anyone with information is asked to contact police or Crime Stoppers.

CRIME

Man, 26, facing weapons charges

A 26-year old man is facing weapons charges after a robbery at the Needs Convenience store on Lacedwood Drive late Monday night.

Halifax police say a man entered the store with a knife and demanded cash from the clerk just after 9:30 p.m.

Police say he then fled the store with an undisclosed amount of money and cigarettes.

Police searched the area with the K-9 unit, but were unable to find the suspected robber.

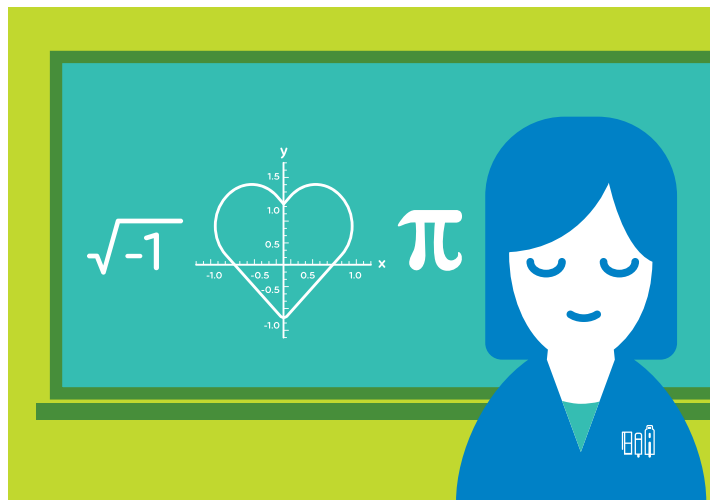
Around 24 hours later, police say they arrested Andrew Francis White on Dawn Street in Halifax.

White was scheduled to appear in Halifax provincial court on Wednesday.

Along with weapons charges, he is also up on robbery and breach of probation offences.

METRO

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CRIME

Halifax police dog catches youths breaking into vehicles

A Halifax police dog has taken a bite out of crime in a Cole Harbour neighbourhood.

The RCMP say early Saturday morning, officers called in police service dog Baylee to help with complaints they had been receiving from residents about people stealing money and personal items from vehicles on Arklow Drive and some surrounding streets.

According to a release, once Baylee arrived on scene, he quickly picked up the suspects scent and led her handler to Fieldwood Circle, where they caught a male youth hiding behind a car in a driveway.

A few minutes later, Baylee led police to the front door of a home on Chateau Crescent, where a second suspect was taken into custody.

"Although PSD Baylee was not required to use force dur-



Halifax RCMP police service dog Baylee. COURTESY RCMP

ing the arrests, she was given a pat on the back for taking a bite out of crime," a RCMP release states.

A 17-year-old boy from Cole Harbour and a 15-year-old boy

from Cherry Brook were both arrested without incident.

They were later released from custody on conditions and will be appearing in Halifax youth court at a later date. METRO

WEST END

Several people left homeless by fire

At least eight people were out of a home Wednesday after an early morning fire caused damage to an apartment building in Halifax's west end, the Canadian Red Cross said.

The blaze was reported short-

ly after midnight at a four-unit complex at 6347 Edinburgh St.

The Red Cross was helping six adults and two infants from three of the four apartments find food and shelter, and volunteers will continue to assess

the situation and provide help if needed.

The relief organization also said help will be provided to the tenant or tenants in the fourth apartment if needed.

METRO



Cape Breton Search and Rescue combs through a wooded area near the home of then-missing Framboise woman Michelle Marie Demers-Kennedy, inset. CAPE BRETON POST FILE; INSET: CONTRIBUTED

Son pleads guilty to killing mother

CRIME

Schizophrenic man changes his plea after charge altered

A Richmond County man pleaded guilty Wednesday to manslaughter in the death of his mother two years ago, although her body has never been found.

Merlin Demers-Kennedy, 32, of Framboise, is the eldest of Michelle Demers-Kennedy's five children. He initially pleaded not guilty to second-degree murder, but a resolution conference involving the Crown and defence resulted in the change to charge and plea.

Demers-Kennedy, who has been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia but was found fit to stand trial, showed no emotion Wednesday during his appearance in Nova Scotia Supreme Court in Port Hawkesbury.

Wearing grey camouflage

pants and a grey top, he replied "Yes" when asked by Justice Simon MacDonald if he understood what was taking place.

Crown attorney Shane Russell told reporters there was a lengthy psychiatric assessment process.

"(The psychiatric report) heavily dealt with matters involving Mr. Demers-Kennedy's history with mental health and how that played into his actions on this particular date," Russell said.

"The report detailed Demers-Kennedy's perception of what he believed was happening to him and ultimately what led to his actions."

Despite extensive searches, Michelle Demers-Kennedy's remains have never been found. Russell said police drilled as many as 800 holes in the Framboise area in the search.

Michelle Demers-Kennedy, 57, was last seen alive by a friend May 3, 2013. She was reported missing to RCMP on May 12, 2013 — Mother's Day.

Merlin Demers-Kennedy

+ CONFESSION

Merlin Demers-Kennedy admitted to killing his mother in an RCMP statement, stating "his intention wasn't to kill her but to take her to the police so I could stop her from raping me."

spoke to RCMP on May 18 and said he doesn't get along with his family. On May 23, search warrants were executed in his trailer on Tree Rivers Road and his vehicle.

Inside a closet, police found personal writings described as nonsensical but dealing with topics including God, incest and killing. The trunk liner from his car was found in the trailer.

If Demers-Kennedy is sentenced to time in a federal prison, he will have access to more counselling and treatment programs. He will be sentenced June 19. CAPE BRETON POST

YOUTH COURT

Boy pleads not guilty in school bus death

A Sydney boy charged with criminal negligence causing death entered a not-guilty plea Wednesday and was assigned a trial date.

The 15-year-old, whose name is prohibited from

publication, is charged in relation to the Feb. 11 death of 18-year-old Christopher Walter Chafe of Sydney.

The youth is alleged to have been negligent in pushing Chafe, which caused

him to fall into the path of a school bus. The incident occurred at Sydney Academy high school.

The trial in youth court is now scheduled for Sept. 8.

CAPE BRETON POST



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Pets make 'life worth living': PM's wife

LAUREEN HARPER

Tours animal shelter during visit to N.S.

Robynn Hatton is accustomed to giving tours at the L.A. Animal Shelter, but Wednesday's visitors left her almost speechless.

Hatton, the shelter's kennel manager, toured Prime Minister

Stephen Harper's wife, Laureen, through the facility with Cumberland Colchester Musquodoboit Valley MP Scott Armstrong and Cumberland South MLA and PC leader Jamie Baillie.

"I have to admit it was a bit intimidating at first, but once you got to know her she really put you at ease," Hatton said.

Harper was on a quick tour of the riding, visiting the miners' museum just outside Spring-

hill and then going to a private party fundraiser in Pugwash in the afternoon.

Harper, who has been a long-time supporter of the Ottawa Humane Society, took her time going from room to room seeing the shelter's many cats that are awaiting adoption. She said she was impressed with the work being done by volunteers and staff.

Harper is a foster mother for cats in Ottawa, adding it's

a tremendous experience for someone who can offer a loving environment for a short time. Fostering a dog or cat, or coming to the shelter to walk dogs, are other things people can do.

Harper said pet ownership is a valuable experience for people. "They make life worth living," she said. "Being loved by an animal that would normally live a horrible life is really special."

CUMBERLAND NEWS



Laureen Harper CUMBERLAND NEWS

CRISIS INTERVENTION

Province expands sex assault services

Nova Scotia is expanding its coverage for sexual assault support to Sydney.

Currently, nurses with specialized training are based only in Halifax and Antigonish, according to a news release from the Department of Health and Wellness.

But a new team of nurses who are trained to provide emotional support, forensic evidence collection and crisis intervention will be based in Sydney.

The department will work with the Nova Scotia Health Authority and the IWK Health Centre to figure out details on how the new team will work.

Officials aren't yet sure whether or not the service will be hospital-based or

+ BACKGROUND

• Health Minister Leo Givens says the government is aware of gaps in services for victims of sexual assault.

• The government says both new teams will be in place by late 2015.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

community-based, but they say the team will be able to travel throughout the region to where it's most needed.

Another team of sexual assault nurse examiners will also be set up to cover southwestern Nova Scotia. METRO

IN BRIEF

Four people face charges after alleged joyride in stolen vehicle

Four people are facing a variety of charges after police recovered a stolen vehicle in Dartmouth on Wednesday morning.

The vehicle was reported stolen at 8 a.m. from a residence in Fall River.

Police said it was spotted an hour later on Franklyn Court in Dartmouth.

When officers pulled the vehicle over, the two people in the front seats allegedly got out and made a run for it. They were found separately a short time later.

The 22-year-old male driver was charged with theft and possession of a stolen vehicle, and the 25-year-old male passenger was charged with joyriding.

They will appear in Dartmouth provincial court on Thursday.

Police also found an undisclosed amount of marijuana in the car.

The two people in the back seat, an 18-year-old man and 18-year-old woman, are both facing charges of drug possession. They will appear in court at a later date. METRO

Man facing child porn, sexual touching charges involving 16-year-old

An Avonport man who had computer luring charges dismissed in December is now facing more sex-related charges involving an underage girl.

Robin Lee Spidle, 24, formerly of New Minas, is charged with sexual touching involving a girl under age 16; inviting, counselling or inciting a person under age 16 to touch his body for a sexual purpose; sexual assault; possession of child porn (pictures of the alleged victim); and trying to obtain for consideration the sexual services of a person under age 18.

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A wide-angle photograph showing three Chevrolet pickup trucks parked on a grassy hill at sunset. From left to right: a dark-colored Chevrolet Colorado, a silver Chevrolet Silverado, and a dark-colored Chevrolet Tahoe. All three vehicles have their headlights on, creating a bright glow. The background features a hazy, rolling landscape under a warm, orange-hued sky.

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Artwork captures 'a moment of time' we must remember

FIRST WORLD WAR

Piece honours veterans of Nova Scotia's 25th Battalion

Rebecca Joseph
For Metro | Halifax

When Nancy Keating was asked to commemorate the first Nova Scotians who went off to fight in the First World War, she had no idea of the personal connection she was about to uncover.

Keating was born and raised in Halifax, and now works as an artist and art administrator. Earlier this year The Great War Centenary Society and Waterfront Development asked her to create a piece honouring Nova Scotia's 25th Battalion, the first batch of Nova Scotians to leave for The Great War's battlefield.

She knew she had military connections in her family, but it wasn't until she began researching the 25th Battalion that she found out her great-uncle was part of the unit, and was likely part of the first group of soldiers to leave the province for Europe in 1914. "This is a moment of time that needs to be remembered," Keating said when recalling her uncle.

The concept for the piece



A conceptual drawing of the Last Steps art installation was unveiled at Pier 21 on Wednesday. JOSH BROWN/FOR METRO

We need to hold onto the memories. All the people who will walk along the boardwalk will see it and learn about the Saxonia.

Nancy Keating

was unveiled at a ceremony at The Canadian Immigration Museum at Pier 21 on

Wednesday, exactly 100 years after the battalion left for war. The painting depicts an

archway with a life preserver proclaiming the name of the battalion's transport ship — HMTS Saxonia.

A gangway with multiple sets of footprints will lead up to the archway.

The footprints are the focus of the piece. Keating said the prints showcase different styles of shoes to show off all the types of people who answered the call to war.

"It's meant to honour the people who walked out of their homes and their farms and joined up," she said.

As the footprints lead onto the installation, they will

transform into boot prints, specifically those of the 25th Battalion. Keating said she wanted to show off the soldiers' "last steps on Canadian soil, because even if they did survive their lives were changed forever."

The 25th Battalion doesn't exist anymore, but they were the precursor to the current Nova Scotia Highlanders. Members of the current

+ DEVELOPMENT

Installation timeline

The Halifax Waterfront Development Corporation plans to install the piece along the boardwalk sometime in the near future.

Highlander regiment were in attendance at the ceremony on Wednesday.

Bill Martin of Dartmouth was also at the ceremony. The installation of a new art piece on the waterfront means a great deal to him, since his grandfather left on the HMTS Saxonia.

"It's a story that's rooted in me," he said. "He died when I was 10 years old, but I clearly remember (that story)."

Martin's grandfather, Pte. Herbert Martin, signed up for the Battalion when he was 18, but Bill Martin said he was in his 30s before he fully understood what Herbert went through.

Martin's thrilled with the new installation, because it means a whole new generation of people can have a look at what his grandfather did.

"It's simple, but it conveys the whole message," he said when talking about the art piece.

"It's not an easy thing to do to come up with the right concept, and (Keating) did an absolutely amazing job."

It's a story that's rooted in me. (My grandfather) died when I was 10 years old, but I clearly remember (that story).

Bill Martin

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Still rocking, 25 years later

BACKSTAGE PASS

Counting Crows playing at Scotiabank Centre

Aly Thompson
For Metro

For a band that has rocked stages across the world for nearly 25 years, it's hard to believe the Counting Crows have embarked on a tour of firsts.

About half of their Canadian tour dates, including Halifax, are cities the band has never played before, said frontman Adam Duritz.

"To go on a tour of Canada at this point and having at least half the cities be places I've never been to, that's really rare," said Duritz, who missed out on playing Halifax in 2010 when their show with Kid Rock was cancelled.

"It's a chance to go someplace new. That brings you back to the same excitement you had when you went places that you've never been before when you were a new band."

The Counting Crows' world tour, in support of their latest album *Somewhere Under Wonderland*, lands at Halifax's Scotiabank Centre on Thursday.

Opening with crescendoing eight-minute-long rock symphony of sorts called *Palissades Park*, the new album is a likable endeavour that rivals some of the group's best work.

Duritz's poetic lyrics are sewn together with catchy melodies, creating a fresh yet familiar sound.

Songs like *Scarecrow* and *Earthquake Driver* are knockouts, proving the band is still capable of pumping out



Counting Crows frontman Adam Duritz performs onstage at the One World Concert at Syracuse University on Oct. 9, 2012, in Syracuse, N.Y.

GETTY IMAGES

If you want to be a band, you've got to be able to play live if you want to hold it together for a period of time.

Adam Duritz

instant classics. And there's something to be said about their ability to show restraint in keeping the album to nine tracks. The result is a solid collection of songs void of any duds.

Duritz said he loves the

new album, but "I would definitely have said that about every record."

"We never wanted to become a legacy band where we were just playing our old songs," the dreadlocked singer said from New York in

a recent interview.

"This is still something we're doing every day."

Creating timeless and relevant albums is a must if you're going to be a successful band with a lengthy career, explains Duritz.

Another must is writing great songs.

"Creating something from nothing — it's hard, it's frustrating, and it's very satisfying," said the 50-year-old Duritz. "And then you try to make that a record and make

20 million

The Counting Crows have sold more than 20 million records since their breakout album *August and Everything After* in 1993, which featured hits such as *Mr. Jones* and *Round Here*.

something timeless — a version of these songs that will

last forever."

But deep-rooted connections with fans are made on the stage, said Duritz.

"Especially nowadays, if you want to be a band, you've got to be able to play live if you want to hold it together for a period of time," he said. "If you want to make a connection that lasts a lifetime with a fan, it happens on that night when you and him are sharing something very personal and unique at a show."

ENTERTAINMENT

Busker festival returning to waterfront

Comedy, music and wild theatrics will return to the Halifax Waterfront this summer with the 2015 Halifax International Busker Festival.

The family festival will be in Halifax from July 29 to Aug. 3, 2015.

The six-day event will feature acts from all over the globe, including Canada, Germany and Australia.

Festival-goers will see award-winning performers in-

cluding Hungarian puppeteers The Budapest Marionettes and the USA Break Dancers.

The festival also includes live statue performers, fire displays and an acrobatic sword swallower.

People of all ages can take in the events of the Halifax International

29

This is the 29th year for the Halifax International Buskers Festival.

Busker Fest along the Halifax Waterfront as well as at Nathan Green Stage (scheduled 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.), Maritime Museum Stage (from 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.), Investors Group Stage at Sackville Landing (between 1 p.m. and 9 p.m.) and at the Rotary Lookout Stage at

Bishop's Landing (1 p.m. to 5 p.m.).

On Aug. 2, there will be an All Star Charity Show at 10 p.m. at the Sackville Landing Stage.

The East Coast Amusement Midway will also be returning to the Salter Parking lot.

Carnival rides, games and GLOW parties will be set up at Queen's Wharf and Maritime Museum of the Atlantic.

METRO

MUSIC

Music hall of fame launches this fall

East Coast musicians and industry professionals will be recognized at the new Casino Nova Scotia Music Hall of Fame in Halifax.

The collaboration by Music Nova Scotia and Casino Nova Scotia will launch in the fall of this year, and the first inductees will be announced in June.

"The Music Hall of Fame recognizes and celebrates our re-

gion's rich cultural and musical heritage," said Gary Moore of Casino Nova Scotia in a statement on Wednesday.

Over the past 20 years, Nova Scotia has been the stage for many performers including Alan Doyle, Joel Plaskett and Rita MacNeil.

A second Music Hall of Fame site is expected to open in Sydney in 2016. METRO

Tories give green light to third election debate

ELECTION STRATEGY

Event will be sponsored by Globe and Mail, Google Canada

The Conservatives are keeping their grip on the pre-election steering wheel, agreeing to a third national debate — one to be held on Stephen Harper's home turf in Calgary and focused on the economy.

The party announced Wednesday that it has accepted a proposal for a third federal election debate sponsored by the Globe and Mail and Google Canada.

"We look forward to this opportunity for voters to compare our plans to keep the Canadian economy strong to the tax-and-spend plans of the opposition," spokesman Kory Teneycke said in a statement.

Teneycke has said Harper will participate in a total of five debates and has already given the nod to one in August hosted by Maclean's magazine and another by the French language network TVA.

+ MEDIA

The consortium is made up of CBC/Radio-Canada, Global and CTV.



Prime Minister Stephen Harper, left to right, former NDP Leader Jack Layton, former Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff and former Bloc Québécois Leader Gilles Duceppe arrive to the English language federal election debate in Ottawa, Ont. on April 12, 2011. The Conservative party says it has accepted a proposal for a third federal election debate. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The Conservatives shook up the debate scenario by walking away from negotiations with the consortium of major TV networks that traditionally broadcast the faceoffs.

They have emphasized that they would like to participate in debates on different media, since Canadians are consuming current affairs on different platforms.

There are also strategic con-

siderations for the Conservatives, who are focused on highlighting the differences between their longtime leader and Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau, a relative newcomer.

A debate on the economy theoretically would favour Harper, who campaigned successfully in 2011 on the message that voters needed to stick with his stable government rather than try something new.

"They want more opportunities for Trudeau to 'shine' in formats he might not be as rehearsed for," former Harper communications director Andrew MacDougall posted to Twitter Wednesday.

"Adding to number of debates also deadens impact of any one debate/slip up."

So far, the New Democrats have said they are anxious for Leader Tom Mulcair to debate

Harper no matter the venue. They have agreed in principle to the three debates Harper has endorsed, while not ruling out the consortium.

The Liberals have yet to confirm their debate plans, but along with the Greens they have defended the consortium format as the best way to reach the maximum audience — 14 million viewers in 2011.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MONTREAL

Education key against jihad, says expert

In the wake of the arrest of 10 young Montrealers suspected of wanting to join jihadist groups overseas, an expert says more needs to be done to educate and counter the extremist rhetoric some Canadian youth have been eager to embrace.

The 10 were detained last weekend at Montreal's Pierre Elliott Trudeau International Airport and released without charge, after having their passports seized.

Reports in mid-January that six young people from the Montreal area had left to join jihadist groups in the Middle East were followed by terrorism-related arrests in the city as well as authorities successfully getting other people to sign peace bonds that restrict their activities.

One expert says it's too soon to say if the arrests in Quebec this year mean the province is a more fertile hotbed for jihad recruitment than other Canadian jurisdictions.

"We've had people leave for jihad from other provinces," said Stephane Leman-Langlois, a criminologist and co-director of a group that studies radicalization and violent extremism.

Leman-Langlois, a professor at Université Laval in Quebec City, says what is particular about Quebec is the increased surveillance by authorities since two terror attacks last fall with ties to the province. Another factor may be what he calls an anti-Muslim sentiment in the province.

Educating youth is one key, but so is a clear strategy to fight the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant's online propaganda, says Andre Gagne, a Concordia University religion professor.

"The best way is to provide a different narrative," said Gagne, who speaks on religious extremism. "We need as a society to give to hope to people, to help them find their meaning and their way." THE CANADIAN PRESS

+ SCHOOL

Collège de Maisonneuve, a junior college, confirmed that four of the 10 arrested were students at their institution.

The school said in a statement it has been dealing with the indoctrination of students, but that it doesn't have any say on what happens outside its walls. In particular, it believes it's increasingly clear that recruiting takes place primarily through social media.

UNITED STATES

Jeb Bush endorses Stephen Harper

Possible U.S. presidential candidate Jeb Bush says he wants Canadians to re-elect Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

The former Republican Florida governor meandered into the unusual foreign endorsement after pledging to visit Canada in the first 100 days of his presidency to repair a bilateral relationship he said President Barack Obama has "ruptured."

"I don't know if it's Prime Minister Harper or whoever the next — he may be re-elected," Bush said Wednesday at an event in New Hampshire. "I, for one, would think that would be great." He quickly added that he will not be making the decision.

Bush has repeatedly used Canada as an example of Obama's supposed bungling of inter-

“It's hard to imagine how we could have a bad relationship with Canada, but under this (Obama) administration, we've managed to do it.”

Jeb Bush

national affairs. He said Wednesday that the tension between the U.S. and its "strongest ally" now extends "across the board," well beyond the matter of the Keystone XL pipeline.

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ENVIRONMENT

Oil slick spans miles off California coast

Slicks of oil that spilled into California coastal waters from an onshore pipeline spanned a total of nine miles Wednesday, and a company official said the line was operating at full capacity when it broke, suggesting much more oil escaped than initially estimated.

The oil that spilled Tuesday off southern Santa Barbara County formed two slicks, said Coast Guard Capt. Jennifer Williams, one of two federal response co-ordinators.

Before a morning flyover, the oil was estimated to span four miles of ocean.

The spill from a Plains All

American Pipeline LP pipe was initially estimated at 21,000 gallons, but officials were not relying on that.

Company official Darren Palmer said Wednesday it remained unknown how much oil actually spilled.

But he said the pipeline was running at a rate of 2,000 barrels an hour — equivalent to 84,000 gallons.

The pipe was built in 1991 and underwent integrity testing a few weeks ago, he said.

Palmer said the company took responsibility for the spill and would pay for the cleanup.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

“It smells like what they use to pave the roads ... I’m sad for the birds — if they lose their habitat.”

Fan Yang, 26, of Indianapolis

MIDDLE EATS

Israeli PM cancels segregated buses

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday cancelled a plan that would have banned Palestinian labourers from riding on the same buses with Jewish settlers in the West Bank, just hours after it was announced — an embarrassing about-face that reflected the tensions enveloping Israel’s new government.

The inauspicious start for Netanyahu’s hard-line government illustrated the difficulties that loom as it tries to advance a pro-settler agenda in the face of rising global outrage and domestic criticism.

The reversal came as the European Union’s foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, was in town. The EU has taken a tough stance against

settlements built on lands claimed by the Palestinians.

As the bus plan was unveiled, Israeli critics across the political spectrum derided it as racist, with one opposition politician comparing it to “apartheid.” Israeli President Reuven Rivlin, a member of Netanyahu’s Likud Party, called the plan “unthinkable” and said there had been “great damage” to Israel.

Netanyahu’s new coalition, which was sworn into office last week, is dominated by settler sympathizers, and the bus plan, launched late Tuesday on a trial basis, had sought to separate settlers and Palestinians from travelling together through the West Bank.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



MIGRANT CRISIS INDONESIA, MALAYSIA OFFER SHELTER TO BOAT PEOPLE Migrants wait to be rescued by Acehese fishermen on their boat on the sea off East Aceh, Indonesia, Wednesday. In a potential breakthrough in Southeast Asia’s humanitarian crisis, Indonesia and Malaysia offered Wednesday to provide temporary shelter to thousands of migrants stranded at sea after weeks of saying they weren’t welcome. But they appealed for international help, saying the crisis was a global, not a regional, problem. S. YULINNAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

U.S. releases seized bin Laden papers

DECLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS

Include letters to wife, terror applications

During his years in hiding, Osama bin Laden urged followers to concentrate on attacking Americans and wrote bittersweet letters to one of his wives and his children, according to documents released Wednesday by U.S. intelligence officials.

The documents were seized in the al-Qaida leader’s compound during the raid in which bin Laden was killed. More than 100

were declassified and published online.

The documents include a fill-in-the-blanks job application for terrorist candidates that ranges from typical questions about education and hobbies to “Do you wish to execute a suicide operation?”

Altogether, the 103 papers and videos add new texture to the world’s picture of the mastermind of the Sept. 11 terror attacks, much of it in his own words.

They include videos and images of letters in Arabic, with the English translations by intelligence officials.

The material was recovered in the May 2011 raid on bin Laden’s compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence said. It said it was being made public after a rigorous review by government agencies, as required by a 2014 law.

U.S. officials had said at the time of his death that they believed bin Laden had become so isolated in his hideout that he no longer exercised the level of control over al-Qaida operations that he had in the past.

In one letter, bin Laden urges one of his deputies to inform “our brothers” they must keep

their focus on fighting Americans. Their “job is to uproot the obnoxious tree by concentrating on its American trunk, and to avoid being occupied with the local security forces,” bin Laden writes.

Another bin Laden letter mocks President George W. Bush’s “war on terror,” saying it had not achieved stability in Iraq or Afghanistan and questioning why U.S. troops were “searching for the lost phantom” — weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

No date is included on the U.S. translation. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Iranian leader rejects UN probe of alleged nuke weapons work

The U.S. may have to soften demands that any nuclear deal with Iran give UN experts a free hand to investigate possible past nuclear arms work by Tehran, after Iran’s supreme leader stridently ruled out co-operation Wednesday. The U.S. and its allies have conditioned full lifting of sanctions on Iran’s willingness to help with the investigation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ISIL seizes almost full control of Palmyra, Syria

ISIL extremists seized almost full control of the ancient Syrian town of Palmyra after government defence lines there collapsed on Wednesday, though it remained unclear how close to the famed archaeological site the extremists advanced, activists said. Syrian state TV acknowledged that pro-government forces have withdrawn from Palmyra. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED STATES

Civil rights critics compare portrayals of crime in Baltimore, Ferguson and Waco

The prevailing images of protests in Baltimore and Ferguson, Missouri, over police killings of black men were of police in riot gear, handcuffed protesters, tear gas and mass arrests. The main images of a fatal gun battle between armed bikers and police in Waco, Texas, also showed mass arrests — carried out by nonchalant-looking officers sitting around calm bikers on cellphones.

The firefight in Waco is raising

questions about perceptions and portrayals of crime in America, considering the vehement reaction that the earlier protests got from police, politicians and some members of the public.

Unlike in Ferguson and Baltimore, where protests went on for days, there was no live news coverage of the Waco shootout. And yet the incident at a Texas restaurant hasn’t been used as a bridge to discuss other issues about families, poverty and

crime, media critics, columnists and civil rights activists say.

They complain that there appears to be little societal concern about the gunplay at a restaurant in Texas, whereas politicians — including President Barack Obama — described violent looters in Baltimore as “thugs,” and the media devoted hours of television and radio airtime to dissecting social ills that affect the black community.

On Twitter, #wacothugs and

#whiteonwhitecrime were trending, with columnists around the nation debating the differences.

The shootout at a Twin Peaks restaurant in Waco left nine people dead and 18 injured. About 170 bikers have been charged with engaging in organized crime, with bond at \$1 million for each suspect. Mug shots show an array of suspects: white, Hispanic, a white woman and a man who looked black.

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Business | metro NEWS

MORTGAGES

Big banks shunning contract workers

When Toronto actor Shawn Ahmed asked his bank for a mortgage, he ran up against the lending policies that some say are shutting young contract workers out of the loans market.

Ahmed, at 27, had already appeared in numerous TV shows and movies. But TD Bank and PC Financial turned down his applications because he didn't fit their framework for an ideal

borrower, Ahmed said.

Contract and short-term employment is more common than full-time work for an increasing number of young people like Ahmed. Yet, Canada's big banks haven't updated their lending rules to deal with this new reality, said Julie Fortier, who also ran into troubles securing a mortgage.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MEAT TRADE

U.S. committee votes to repeal labels law

The U.S. House of Representatives agriculture committee voted 38-6 on Wednesday to get rid of labels on packages of meat that say where the animals were born, raised and slaughtered — just two days after the World Trade Organization ruled against parts of it.

House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway, a Republican, along with several

of his colleagues, introduced the legislation hours after the WTO decision. All but six of the committee's Democrats supported the bill.

The bill would go beyond just the muscle cuts of red meat that were covered under the WTO case, however, also repealing country-of-origin labelling for poultry, ground beef and ground pork. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Notice to Halifax Water Customers



Halifax Water is in a labour disruption following strike action by CUPE Locals 227 and 1431. Management and non-union Halifax Water staff are making every effort to ensure that the essential water, wastewater and stormwater services you depend on are provided.

Below is a list of contact numbers for water, wastewater, and stormwater service, as well as bill payment locations that will remain available throughout this labour disruption.

Halifax Water Services - Contact Information

Customer Service	902-490-4820
24 Hour Emergency Water Service	902-490-6940
24 Hour Emergency Wastewater/Stormwater Service	311

Halifax Municipality Customer Service Centre Bill Payment Locations

Acadia Centre	636 Sackville Drive Lower Sackville, NS B4C 2S3	8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday
Alderney Gate	40 Alderney Drive, 2nd Floor Dartmouth, NS B2Y 2N5	8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday
Bayer's Road	7071 Bayers Road, 2nd Floor Towers Halifax, NS B3L 4P3	8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday
Musquodoboit Harbour	7900 Highway #7 Musquodoboit Harbour, NS B0J 2L0	8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday
Scotia Square	5201 Duke Street Halifax, NS B3J 1N9	8:30am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday

Halifax Water's Head Office at 450 Cowie Hill Rd. will be closed to the public throughout this labour disruption.

Bill payments can be made online via EPost (visit www.halifaxwater.ca); mail to PO Box 8388 RPO CSC, Halifax, NS B3K 5M1; at all Halifax Municipality Customer Service Centres; and through most financial institutions. For more information on Halifax Water, including updated information regarding this labour disruption, please visit www.halifaxwater.ca



Daniel Ek, CEO of Spotify, announces at a media conference in New York Wednesday the music streaming leader's entry into video and original content. DON EMMERT/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Spotify gets into videos

STREAMING SERVICES

Digital music leader goes up against Netflix, Hulu, Amazon

While saying that it is still a music company at heart, Spotify says it is expanding its lineup to include podcasts, news radio and video streaming.

The company says it wants to help people create a soundtrack for their day that includes not only music but videos, news-casts and other content.

Spotify offers free streaming music and also a premium service for a monthly fee that includes extra features. The company didn't say it is changing its cost structure.

Spotify enters a competitive market for video streaming dominated by Netflix, Amazon.com and Hulu, and getting more crowded with the arrival

+ LAUNCHES

CEO Daniel Ek said the new service launched Wednesday in the U.S., U.K., Germany and Sweden. There's no word yet on a Canadian launch date.

of companies like HBO.

Spotify's service is a "logical extension of the company's success in digital music streaming, since these are complementary businesses that use much of the same technology infrastructure, marketing expertise, and vendor relationships," said Paul Verna, senior analyst at research firm eMarketer.

Verna said the manoeuvre suggests that Spotify "sees a business opportunity in digital video advertising, which is a much larger and faster-growing sector than Spotify's core business of digital music."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Protest shuts restaurant

McDonald's shut down a restaurant near its headquarters in Oak Brook, Ill., Wednesday after the area was swamped by hundreds of protesters calling for pay of \$15 US an hour and a union. A spokeswoman said it was closed because of traffic concerns. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

To keep friendships, we need to embrace the complications

This is the Age of Friendship.

Perfect love has been outed as a lie, marriage is not obligatory, and sexual relationships can be as varied and short-lived as the weather.

Families have been scattered across the globe, replaced by the rise of the "chosen family," and Statistics Canada has reported that we're more likely to see friends over family in any given week.

The friend is the dominant relationship of our time, and we're gathering more of them. But don't expect this era to be any less fickle.

Yesterday, Statscan revealed that the number of Canadians with three or more close friends rose to 75 per cent in 2013, versus 70 per cent in 2003. Among 25- to 34-year-olds, 70 per cent have more than 10 other friends or acquaintances, up from 58 per cent a decade before.

Yet no one tells you, when you start making all these friends, how frequently the relationships will change.

Growing up, I believed friends would be the safety blanket of adult life, the constant, forgiving companions. Lovers come and go, but friendship is forever, I was told.

But it's not always true. And we should be honest about it.

Yes, there are efforts to show the complexity of friendships (the new novel Friend-

ship, the best-friend breakup movie Frances Ha and the TV show Girls) but they're hardly enough to dispel our assumptions of the cemented, enduring friendship.

And when I found myself one day realizing I was drifting from a friend I believed would love me forever, it was a shock.

When I have moved cities and left behind people I saw daily, I've worried that it's my fault if intimacy is lost. When close friends have fallen in love, when they've changed, or when I've changed, the friendship doesn't hold steady. It morphs. And sometimes it dies.

There's hardly ever a clean break, the "it's not you, it's me" conversation, which Natalie Kon-yu, co-editor of a collection of essays on female friendships called Just Between Us, has noted. Shame over the loss can linger. It's one thing for love to die, but who discards a friend?

Yet in 2009, Dutch researcher Gerald Mollenhorst found that we do change friends — about half of them every seven years.

If we want to keep the friends we have now, we'd better get real about how complicated those relationships can be. And if we should lose some of them, it shouldn't be a source of shame.

Life, and friendship, is just that messy.

Bloc needs a saviour to survive

POLITICS

Chantal Hébert



The Parti Québécois chose media tycoon Pierre-Karl Péladeau as its leader last Friday, based on the belief he would breathe new life into the flagging cause of sovereignty and do so quickly.

For the baby boomers who make up the backbone of the PQ, time to reach the coveted destination of independence is of the essence.

But unless the Bloc Québécois rises from the dead next October, the first Quebec vote to take place on PKP's watch will turn into yet another sovereigntist wake.

At this juncture, resurrecting the federal party is lining up to be a tall order.

The Bloc has not been in first place in voting intentions since its 2011 defeat at the hands of the NDP. Provincewide, it usually ranks third behind the Liberals and the NDP, just ahead of the Conservatives. Because the Conservatives' support is heavily concentrated in the larger Quebec City area, Stephen Harper's party is currently favoured to win more seats than the BQ next fall.

With only one MP running for re-election and in the absence of a leader in

the House of Commons, the Bloc has on occasion gone for weeks since 2011 without rating more than a passing mention in the mainstream Quebec media.

Almost a year into the tenure of sovereigntist activist Mario Beaulieu, the latest Bloc leader remains unknown to many Quebec voters.

Most of them will see him in action for the first time on the podium of the French-language election debate(s) this year. His own election campaign, in a Montreal inner-city riding currently represented by the NDP, is expected to be an uphill battle.

The Bloc would need the political equivalent of divine intervention if it is to avoid being unceremoniously consigned to the dustbin of history next fall.

For many sovereigntists, that divine intervention is expected to take the shape of an incoming PQ leader considered by more than a few of his followers to have the ability to walk on water.

If he could, Péladeau might be tempted to pass on a potentially programmed-to-fail rescue mission. He is a late convert to the merits of a sovereigntist presence on Parliament Hill.

Early in his leadership campaign, he voiced doubts as to the relevance

of the Bloc, only to have to backtrack in the face of a nascent backlash within party ranks.

Now — and whether he likes it or not — the upcoming federal election is poised to be the first real-life test of his capacity to nurse sovereigntist fortunes back to health.

If only for the sake of the fractious movement he is trying to reunite behind him, Péladeau would be hard-pressed to sit out the federal campaign while the PQ's sister party fights for its life.

A fatal Bloc defeat would take wind out of Péladeau's sails, but sitting on his hands while the federal ship sinks could compound the damage.

PKP has, after all, promised to make the pursuit of sovereignty his overriding concern. As it happens, that has also been Beaulieu's mantra. He has now taken to quoting his new PQ partner at every opportunity.

The Bloc is the only sovereigntist option on the federal ballot. In theory, voting for the party should be a no-brainer for anyone partaking in a PKP-induced sovereigntist revival.

After all, when it comes to supporting sovereignty in the abstract, casting a ballot for the Bloc comes second only to telling a pollster that one would vote yes in the hypothet-

A fatal Bloc defeat would take wind out of Péladeau's sails, but sitting on his hands while the federal ship sinks could compound the damage.

ical event of another referendum.

As of last weekend, according to Léger Marketing, the proportion of yes voters stood at 42 per cent and support for the PKP-led PQ at 34 per cent. If he has even a fraction of the power of attraction that his supporters believe, should not Péladeau's presence in the sovereigntist window bring enough traffic to the Bloc to keep it in business?

Not that the PQ does not have a script ready for any federal outcome.

Over the past two decades it has always cast the Bloc's successes as great omens for sovereignty and its setbacks as meaningless ones for its cause. The reverse has tended to be true.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro every Thursday.

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Vow to keep it simple

SLAPDASH AFFAIR

How to save 20K+ and plan your wedding on the fly

Melissa Dunne
Metro | Life



"You bought your wedding dress online?!" exclaimed my seamstress.

"Yes," I murmured, suddenly turning the shade of a ripened tomato and rambling on about how it's a casual affair, we've been together almost a decade and it's a waste of money to spend a small fortune on something you'll wear once.

Later, The Fiancé and I went to a local florist. When she asked which colours I wanted I said: "I dunno... red?" She exclaimed: "Red? At a June wedding?!"

A pattern was emerging. Planning a wedding on a whim was causing members of the public to lose it. Both times these women literally shrieked their disapproval at my plans I thought to myself: "THIS is exactly why I've always wanted to elope."

The amount of furrowed brows and not-so-silent judging has been a surprise. On Instagram and Pinterest it looks like everyone is happily opting for floral crowns, coloured dresses, suspenders and polka-dot bow-ties while everyone beams with delight at their whimsical choices. But in real life, there is

still significant shade thrown at couples eschewing the traditional princess dress and tux.

Causing complete strangers' consternation wasn't the main reason it took so long for my cold feet to warm up to the idea of putting a ring on it. It was mainly the reported cost of those rings and the dress and the banquet hall etc., etc., etc.

Love don't cost a thing, but weddings sure do

According to Weddingbells' annual reader survey, the expected cost of a wedding in Canada in 2014 was \$31,685. Not to humblebrag, but we planned our wedding in five days and the whole thing will cost about \$5,000. The Fiancé and I actually thought it'd be more like \$3,500, but have found that the little things (like dress alterations and flowers) quickly add up.

The co-founder and vice-president of The Wedding Planners Institute of Canada says based on her experience, couples really are spending \$30,000+ on nuptials. In fact, many of her clients spend more than that.

"It's usually about \$27,000," says Tracey Manaiescu, who trains the next generation of wedding planners and has been helping couples plan their trips down the aisle for more than fifteen years.

Oh, and the \$27,000 is just for the vendors and food. Ouch.

After hearing those numbers I'm happy we committed to planning what a friend dubbed a "slapdash" wedding. But, is deciding to wed with less than two months' notice rude to our guests?

Manners maven Karen



What last-minute weddings lack for in money and time can be made up with creativity. ISTOCK

Cleveland also had a slapdash wedding by today's standards and assures me a last-minute event is just fine.

"My husband and I pulled ours together in four months," says the etiquette adviser at MannersAreSexy.com. "There's no right or wrong way to do things."

I sheepishly tell her we sent an e-vite to save money and time. She says it's A-OK to send a digital invitation in the Digital Age.

While the manners expert is surprisingly open-minded when it comes to weddings she does have one iron-clad rule. Write

handwritten thank-you notes to every guest.

"No email thank-yous," she says sternly.

With just over four weeks to go until I say "I do," I'm sure I'll get scolded for breaking a few more unspoken rules along the way. For the record: I'm going

UNIQUE & THRIFTY



SOLANGE'S INSTAGRAM/@STRECORDS

The new normal is there is no normal when it comes to weddings, says Manaiescu. Want to celebrate your second marriage in a cape on a bicycle like singer Solange Knowles? Go for it.

Something borrowed Manaiescu suggests renting your dress or buying a used one. The site RentfrockRepeat.com has a wide range of non-traditional options.

Commit (to a budget)

Guesstimate how much things will cost and then assume it will cost 25 per cent more than that. Then stick to that number.

Roses are red, violets are blue — and they will cost you

Flowers are another area where couples are shocked by the blooming costs, says the wedding planner and trainer.

MELISSA DUNNE/METRO LIFE

with a mix of daisies and white roses — not a red flower in sight.

Turns out picking flowers and dresses is not that different than picking out one person to spend the rest of your life with (eek). At some point you just have to trust your gut, close your eyes and take the plunge — trusting it will all work out in the end.

Or, you could just elope.

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Ambition that kills romance

DEBUT NOVEL

Author Mike Steeves puts the spotlight on failure in *Giving Up*

Amber Shortt
Metro | Life

Mike Steeves had spent eight years working on a novel when he received some advice from a writerly friend: Give it up.

"I had been writing since I was quite young and hadn't managed to accomplish anything to the degree that I kind of hoped," says the Steeves, 36, who lives in Montreal with his wife.

Steeves followed the friend's advice, and instead began to explore his feelings of failure surrounding the project — and the impact such an endeavour has on a relationship.

The result is *Giving Up*, his debut novel released last week — a he-said-she-said story following James and Mary, a youngish, middle-class couple living in an apartment in a never described city.

James is obsessed with finishing his "life's work," while Mary is consumed with James and their troubled efforts to start a family.

The story unfolds over a few hours as two seemingly ordinary events (a trip to the bank and a run-in with a stray cat) force them to confront each other and how their lives and relationship haven't lived up to expectations.

"I think the generation I belong to has been set up to expect perhaps more than is reasonable," says Steeves, pointing to a capitalist economy that constantly bombards us with reminders of what we don't have.

Social media doesn't help. James and Mary both struggle with comparisons to their peers, but for Mary those anxieties are amplified by Facebook. Seeing pictures of her friends makes her feel envy and shame, telling us, "even though I know it doesn't make any sense I feel like they've abandoned me."

The reader feels the anxiety as the novel is told with extreme attention to detail — and no paragraph breaks — through the couple's inner thoughts. It's structured



***Giving Up* is a case study on the resentments that develop in a one-sided relationship.** ISTOCK



I think the generation I belong to has been set up to expect perhaps more than is reasonable

Mike Steeves

in three parts, first from the perspective of James, then Mary, then interweaving between James and Mary.

It's an oftentimes funny, heart-breaking and infuriating case study of the resentments that develop when one person's ambition take up most of the room in a relationship — and book, as James gets at least a third more headspace than Mary.

"This was pointed out to me by my wife after she read the manuscript," he says. "She said it's pretty clear the book is more about James than it is about the two of them."

But it's through this imbalance that the novel explores themes of the subtle misogyny that often still exist in a modern, heterosexual relationship.

Mary at one point comments with annoyance how James thinks, "he is actually explaining my own thoughts to me so that I can understand them more fully."

And James ruminates over what he once saw as Mary's dedication to his life's work ("there was never a question that everything she did upstairs was in service to the work he is doing below").

"What it comes down to is James, and what he wants is very much rooted in a fiercely personal ambition. And you know, you could probably use another word to describe that, which is narcissism," Steeves says.

In contrast, Mary "needs other people to accomplish what she hopes to accomplish and so she's necessarily reliant upon her husband in a way that he doesn't believe he's reliant on her — the emphasis being on *believe*."

FICTION

Beneath the violence, debut novel is a tender love story

BOOKWORM

Sue Carter



At just 32, Danila Botha has lived in more places than most of us will ever dream of.

The Johannesburg-born author, who's resided in South Africa, Israel and Canada, knows first-hand it doesn't matter how many thousands of miles you travel, the old cliché is true: You can't escape your past.

That harsh reality is at the core of Botha's debut novel *Too Much on the Inside*, published by Quattro Books. Set in Toronto's gritty Parkdale neighbourhood, the story burrows deep inside the heads of four 20-somethings as they fumble through tumultuous relationships in hopes of finding happiness in their adopted home.

The inspiration for the novel hit when Botha was living in Halifax for university. While on a bus, she met a young man who shared the story of losing his daughter because of a crime he committed when he was a

teenager.

His sorrowful confession became the basis for Botha's character Lukas, a Nova Scotian who hides the truth about his incarceration behind anger, often directed at his girlfriend Nicki, an Israeli bar server with her own secrets.

While Botha — who spent childhood summers in Israel and taught there for several years — never experienced shocking violence like her character, she does share conflicted feelings over what's happening in her ancestral country.

"I wanted to write about politics but from a very personal, emotional point of view. I didn't want to make a statement," says Botha, who lives in Toronto.

Nicki's co-workers — the philandering Brazilian bartender Dez and the tough South African former ballet dancer Marlize — also struggle to move on. In particular, Marlize, who is still recovering from a horrific



rape while living in Cape Town, a place Botha has grown to love despite its prolific crime.

"Cape Town is such a beautiful city, but violence happens to people there every day, all the time," says Botha.

"I was interested in writing not

just about the attack, but what happens to people after. How do you go back to living life, or start a new life?"

Despite its violence, *Too Much on the Inside* is really a tender love story. While Botha enjoyed writing about the thrills of new relationships, she can't imagine travelling back. "I'm more confident than I was in my 20s," she says.

"I don't know if when you're older you don't have as much time to think about things, or you just get on with life, but I'm definitely happier."

Sue Carter is the editor of *Quill and Quire* magazine

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Hot looks to put spring in your step

FROM HOLLYWOOD TO YOU

Star stylist shares key fashion trends for the season

From the Oscars to the recent Met Gala, Cristina Ehrlich has played a pivotal role in dressing several of Hollywood's leading ladies for marquee events.

Tina Fey, Penelope

Cruz, Julianna Margulies, Margot Robbie and Girls star Alison Williams are among the actresses on the stylist's client roster.

"I think it's really just about having that understanding that you're there to make them feel super comfortable, make sure that you're hearing what they're saying," said Ehrlich, who was ranked among the Top 25 power stylists by The Hollywood Reporter.

"I think it's really important not to push a client into

something she doesn't want to wear, or if she's not sure and you're not sure, to be honest about it and say, 'Let's move on.' Because at the end of the day, there's always another dress."

Ehrlich was recently in Toronto for a showcase of the Marshalls spring-summer collection, which highlighted fashions inspired by her star clients. Below, she reveals how women can channel the trends into their spring wardrobes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mix Masters

Robbie doesn't shy away from prints but if you're mixing them, Ehrlich suggests finding commonality in the colours, such as a dominant white base.

"I think you have to look at the colour palette that you're mixing, and if you're doing baby blue and cream, maybe grey and purple will work," she said. "I think it's just one of the things where your eye looks at it and it makes sense or it doesn't."



Embellished crop top (\$24.99)

Designer sheer panelled pencil skirt (\$129.99)



Leather envelope clutch (\$79.99)



Metallic sneaker (\$49.99)

Modern Femme

The fun approach to feminine fashion comes to the fore in outfits worn by Mad Men star and Montreal native Jessica Paré.

Ehrlich suggested opting for a form-fitting dress, and said women don't need to shy away from mixing metallics, notably in accessories.

"A couple of years ago, I would have thought the biggest no-no in the world is ... a gold evening bag ... paired with silver shoes. That's really just to show you now that there really are no rules and you can mix metal colours, too."



The Power Dresser

Embodied by stars like Margulies and Williams (pictured), the trend incorporates menswear-inspired pieces that can pair well with chic, feminine designs.

Ehrlich suggested teaming sleek separates like a blazer or flared trousers with bold statement accessories.

She said a prime example of the trend is sporting a jacket slung over a little black dress. Her choice LBD selection? The peplum, the ruffle or short overskirt that attaches to the waistlines of garments.



Tortoise shell sunglasses (\$29.99)



Collarless blazer and crop top (\$34.99 and \$59.99)



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GOOP

Paltrow will now let them eat cake

Let it be known that Gwyneth Paltrow has relaxed her attitudes about exactly what her two kids are allowed to ingest, finally ending the embargo on “bad” foods, she tells *Women’s Health*.

“My food philosophy is nothing should be ruled out,” she tells the magazine. “I don’t believe in saying, ‘You’re not allowed that.’ If my kids want a Shirley Temple with the radioactive cherry in it, go for it, you know?”

So she’s gone from outright banning foods she deems inappropriate to laying on some next-level laissez-faire parental guilt-tripping? High marks, ma’am.

Oh, and if you’re interested in getting that Goop-endorsed glow that Paltrow rocks on the magazine’s cover? It’s actually really simple. She says she just believes in “exercise, laughing, having sex, being yourself.” So if you’re not getting the results you want,

clearly you’re doing one of those wrong.
NED EHRBAR/
METRO IN
HOLLYWOOD



Gwyneth Paltrow
GETTY IMAGES

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At TIFF last year, Melissa McCarthy reminded a particularly nasty critic that when he criticizes her appearance, he is chipping away at the self esteem of little girls everywhere. GETTY IMAGES

McCarthy calls out nasty critic

GENDER ISSUES

Comedian shames man who slammed her looks



Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Hollywood

So that time last year when Melissa McCarthy confronted a critic who had trashed her

appearance in *Tammy* and criticized her looks? Apparently, she decided not to sink to his level.

“I met him at the Toronto Film Festival, and he actually said, ‘I’m the one that wrote this.’

“He came up to me, and I was surprised that he talked to me,” she tells *Ellen DeGeneres*.

“When I said, ‘If (your daughter) comes home and someone says you can’t have a job because you’re unattract-

ive,’ are you gonna say, ‘That’s right’? And he took that in his heart and he was like, ‘No, I would never want that to happen. I would never in a million years want that to happen.’

“And I said, ‘Just know that every time you write stuff, every young girl in this country reads that and they just get a little bit chipped away.’ I just think that we tear down women ... for all these superficial reasons, and women are so great and strong, and I think he really heard that.”

GOSSIP NOTES

Vancouverite the new *Bachelorette*

Canadian fans of *The Bachelorette* will have a hometown hero to root for on the reality TV show this season.

Vancouverite Kaitlyn Bristowe, originally from Leduc, Alta., will get her pick of two-dozen eligible bachelors that will vie for her heart (or their 15 minutes of fame) as cameras follow their every move.

In a twist that made for awkward television, the guys got to vote whether they wanted to date Kaitlyn, a 29-year-old dance instructor, or Britt Nilsson, a 28-year-old waitress from L.A.

Ultimately the men preferred Kaitlyn to Britt, who went home in tears. Kaitlyn proceeded to get to know the guys — she seemed smitten with Shawn, who kind of looks like fellow Canadian Ryan Gosling — and sent five of them packing. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Olsen twins moving into the *Fuller House* after all

So remember all that talk about how Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen had no interest in doing *Fuller House* and that was fine because their former co-stars didn’t want them around anyway? Yeah, about that. A source tells

Life & Style that the twins have had a change of heart and are signing on to reprise their shared role as Michelle Tanner for

the Netflix reboot.

“They figured it would be a good break from their usual work routine to go and join their old cast members,” the source says. This, of course, raises more questions than it answers, like how do you work in two very famous actresses for one part? Or will Michelle have a long-lost evil twin? And what exactly is the Olsen twins’ “usual work routine?”

NED EHRBAR/METRO

Married life has Clooney ditching his one-T-shirt ways

So how is George Clooney’s life changing now that he’s no longer a swinging bachelor? It turns out that Amal Clooney hasn’t been cramping his style too much — unless he gets out of line.

“There is that moment when I’ve worn the same T-shirt, like, for a week that she says, ‘Really?’” Clooney tells Jimmy Kimmel during an interview. But just in case you think stars really are just like us, he’s not talking about literally the exact same unwashed shirt for a week straight, but more just one style of shirt multiple days in a row. “I fake her out once in a while,” he explains. “I get different colours of the same

T-shirt.” Oh, you prankster, you. So it’s more of a fashion faux pas than a hygienic concern. Oh, rich people. NED EHRBAR/METRO



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Duncan McAllister FOR METRO



\$759,000

Toronto

This single-floor downtown unit has views of Lake Ontario from all rooms. There are two terraces, bamboo floors, a stainless-steel built-in dishwasher and fridge, a Ceran glass-ceramic range, microwave and stackable washer and dryer. The unit includes two tandem underground parking spots and a shed. Listing agent Alex J. Wilson is with RE/MAX Condos Plus, 416-996-5181.



\$382,400

Winnipeg

For sale is a three-bedroom unit that includes an attached double garage, high-end kitchen with plenty of cabinetry, an electric fireplace in the living room, hardwood floors in the dining room, and an outdoor deck. The unit, bordered by a forest and lake, is also five minutes away from a shopping centre. Listing agent Chris Kenny is a sales representative with RE/MAX Professionals, 204-899-4858.



\$309,900

Calgary

This two-bedroom, two-storey, south-facing unit is within walking distance of transit, shopping and the university. It features a spacious living room with wood-burning fireplace, a laundry-storage room, kitchen and dining area. The bright and spacious master bedroom opens to a second balcony. Tim Lind is a sales representative with RE/MAX Real Estate (Mountain View), 403-247-5171.



\$229,900

Halifax

You can enjoy life on the peninsula with this three-bedroom condo townhome at 5620 Carriageway Cres. Located on a quiet cul-de-sac, it's minutes away from all amenities and a short walk to the Nova Scotia Community College. A true open-concept floor plan lends itself to the living room and dining area. The dine-in kitchen is newly renovated with all-new cabinetry. On the top floor are large bedrooms and a full bath. The lower level has a recreation room with walkout to a patio area. Listing agent is Thomas Bagogloo from the Bagogloo Team, RE/MAX nova, 902-830-9006.



\$174,800

Ottawa

Here's a bright, two-bedroom upper townhouse near amenities. It has a spacious living-dining room with laminate floors. There's a galley-style kitchen, plenty of cabinets, updated quartz counters, glass-tile backsplash and tile floors. There's a decent sized master bedroom with walk-in closet. Listing agent Geoff McGowan is a sales representative with RE/MAX Affiliates Realty, 613-216-1755.

3

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2

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3

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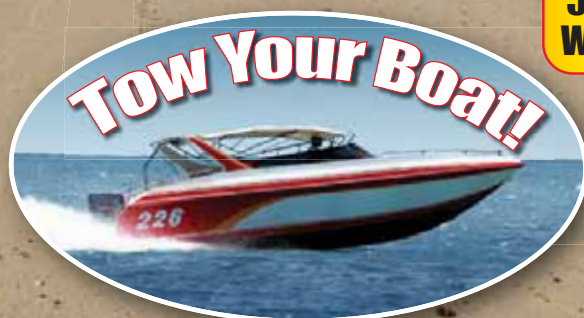
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Down to business with Babcock

BUILDING FROM THE BENCH

Coach gets \$50M to turn around sad sack Leafs

Brendan Shanahan and the Toronto Maple Leafs swung for the fences and landed the biggest free agent of the NHL off-season. It's not a franchise cornerstone defenceman or a No. 1 centre but highly sought after coach Mike Babcock, who had his pick of jobs and chose the Leafs on an eight-year contract worth \$50 million.

"I'm proud of Shanny, I'm proud that he dreamt big," Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment president and CEO Tim Leiweke said. "He got the big whale."

It took a bidding war, and the Leafs won it.

Babcock had no shortage of suitors, from Detroit, where he coached for the past 10 years, to Buffalo and San Jose. The man considered the top hockey coach in the world now has a deal that makes him the highest-paid coach in the league.

The Saskatoon native will reportedly receive a large signing bonus and make between \$5

million US and \$6 million per season, well above the \$3.5 million Joel Quenneville of Chicago Blackhawks pulls in annually. Babcock joins a Leafs team that has missed the playoffs nine of the past 10 seasons.

Toronto will send a third-round pick to the Red Wings as compensation for Babcock.

Landing Babcock is a major coup for Shanahan, who in the past 13 months since taking over as president has fired general manager Dave Nonis, coach Randy Carlyle, interim Peter Horachek and several assistants and scouts.

"I know there were people that ultimately questioned whether or not Brendan would come in here and ultimately be a great president," Leiweke said during a news conference announcing the sale of the CFL's Toronto Argonauts at BMO Field. "You have to give him a lot of credit. This is a vision he had early on."

Babcock won a Stanley Cup with Detroit in 2008, went to the final in 2003 with Anaheim and in 2009 with the Red Wings and captured two Olympic gold medals for Canada.

With his contract up, the 52-year-old had his pick of staying in Detroit or choosing a new

challenge. Red Wings general manager Ken Holland, who said he's "happy for Mike," also confirmed he didn't want to give Babcock a contract longer than five years.

After the Red Wings were eliminated from the playoffs, Babcock expressed concerns about the long-term future with stars Pavel Datsyuk and Henrik Zetterberg in their mid-30s.

Having made the post-season in 11 of his 12 years in the NHL, Babcock joins a Toronto team that has struggled to get there.

Last month Shanahan said he was looking for general manager and coach who "want to be part of this direction and turning it around."

"We're hoping to find people that are here for a long time, share this vision," Shanahan said in April.

Babcock's eight-year contract — which reportedly includes an out clause after five — shows this is a long-term move. His salary, which is in line with the best in the NFL and NBA, also proves the Leafs are Babcock's team for the long haul.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A LOOK AT THE TROPHY CASE +

By the numbers

The Leafs' new bench boss is the only head coach to have won a Stanley Cup, Olympic gold medal and world championship. Here's a look at some of his top accomplishments.

1 Stanley Cups won (Detroit, 2008)

2 Olympic gold medals won with Canada (2010, 2014)

5 Major titles won (two Olympic golds, one Stanley Cup, one world championship, one world junior championship)

10 Years with Red Wings. They made the playoffs each season

107

Points accumulated over 146 games as a defenceman with the McGill Redmen

.627 Regular-season winning percentage in the NHL

New Leafs coach Mike Babcock.
GETTY IMAGES

I think he's really going to enjoy being in Toronto and I think he'll do a great job.

Wayne Gretzky who worked with Mike Babcock for team Canada during the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.



Steven Stamkos scored in the first period of the Lightning's win over the Rangers on Wednesday night in Tampa, Fla.
MIKE CARLSON/GETTY IMAGES

NHL PLAYOFFS

OT win gives Bolts control of East final

Nikita Kucherov scored 3:33 into overtime to give the Tampa Bay Lightning a 6-5 victory over the New York Rangers on Wednesday night in Game 3 of the Eastern Conference final.

Ondrej Palat had two goals and an assist, and Tyler Johnson, Steven Stamkos and Alex Killorn each had one goal and an assist for the Lightning. They took a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven that continues Friday night at Amalie Arena.

GAME 3 In Tampa, Fla.



The winner came about a minute after New York goalie Henrik Lundqvist made a terrific stop on J.T. Brown's breakaway.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

New Bruins GM appears lukewarm on coach Julien
On his first day as general manager of the Boston Bruins, Don Sweeney met with Claude Julien and declined to give his Stanley Cup-winning coach more than a tepid endorsement.

"He's the coach of the Boston Bruins as of today, for sure," Sweeney said Wednesday in a news conference after he was promoted to become the eighth GM in the 81-year history of the Original Six franchise. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sens re-sign Hambrglar
Andrew Hammond has shown he has what it takes to play at a high level in the NHL in a short-term situation. Now he is ready to show he can do it over the length of his new contract and beyond.

The Ottawa Senators signed the goaltender to a \$4.05-million US, three-year contract on Wednesday. Hammond's spectacular late-season run played a big part in getting the Senators into the playoffs. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A-Rod, Yankees on good terms again

MLB

Team owner says notorious star has 'been a great asset'

Now that Alex Rodriguez has more home runs than law-suits, the New York Yankees are happy with him.

The 39-year-old began Wednesday with a .248 batting average following his return from a season-long drug suspension, and his 10 homers and 22 RBIs were both second on the team to Mark Teixeira.

"If he was healthy, I've always said, he'd be a good asset, and he's been a great asset," Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner said Wednesday before the Major League Baseball executive

council meeting. "He's been playing well, and he's been producing."

New York and A-Rod sniped at each other for 1-1/2 years. He refused to say in July 2013 whether he trusted the Yankees, would not speak with management without one of his lawyers and filed a medical malpractice suit against the team physician. He also sued MLB, then-commissioner Bud Selig

and the players' association.

He withdrew the suits and apologized for his actions. Now, even a dispute over a \$6-million marketing bonus isn't causing public acrimony.

While he has not played a full season since 2007 because of two hip surgeries and various injuries, Rodriguez appeared in 37 of the Yankees' first 40 games, including 32 as a designated hitter. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Alex Rodriguez, right, entered Wednesday having slugged 10 homers for the Yankees this season. JIM ROGASH/GETTY IMAGES

2022 WORLD CUP

Sponsors push FIFA on Qatar labour

FIFA came under pressure from sponsors Adidas, Coca-Cola and Visa on Wednesday to push Qatar to improve conditions for migrant workers as the country rapidly expands to host the 2022 World Cup.

The calls from high-profile commercial backers of soccer's flagship tournament come amid ongoing concerns from rights groups over labour laws and living conditions for workers.

FIFA insisted Wednesday that reform of worker rights is underway in Qatar and that the World Cup is proving to be a "catalyst for significant change."

But the statement from credit card company Visa is the strongest public expression of unease yet from a FIFA sponsor about the plight of workers in the tiny oil and natural gas-rich country.

"We continue to be troubled by the reports coming out of Qatar related to the World Cup and migrant worker conditions," Visa said in a statement. "We have expressed our grave concern to FIFA, and urge them

to take all necessary actions to work with the appropriate authorities and organizations to remedy this situation and ensure the health and safety of all involved."

Adidas, the World Cup ball provider since 1970, said it remains in "constant dialogue" with FIFA and pointed to pressure already being applied on Qatar by soccer's governing body.

"There have been significant improvements and these efforts are ongoing, but everyone recognizes that more needs to be done in a collective effort with all stakeholders involved," Adidas said in a statement.

Coca-Cola stressed in a statement that it "does not condone human rights abuses" but, like Adidas and Visa, did not threaten to withdraw its sponsorship over Qatar concerns.

"We expect FIFA to continue taking these matters seriously and to work toward further progress," the Atlanta-based soft drinks manufacturer said in a statement. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

\$30M

FIFA financial accounts indicate that Adidas, Visa and Coca-Cola pay around \$30 million a year to sponsor world soccer's governing body

IN BRIEF

Draw keeps Sunderland safe in Premier League

Sunderland secured its Premier League survival on Wednesday by drawing 0-0 at Arsenal, denying the London club a chance to guarantee a place in the Champions League group stage.

Sunderland moved four points clear of the relegation zone with a game to spare, ensuring Dick Advocaat completed the survival mission he took on when replacing Gus Poyet as manager two months ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Argos sale made official

After months of uncertainty, the future of the Toronto Argonauts is starting to look brighter.

Bell and MLSE chairman Larry Tanenbaum officially announced Wednesday that they have purchased the CFL team and will relocate it to BMO Field.

The Argos currently play at Rogers Centre, home of the Toronto Blue Jays. Their lease at the domed stadium runs through the 2017 season, but can be terminated earlier.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RECIPE Sliced Steak with Pineapple Salsa



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A quick & delicious barbequed dinner with a fresh sweet salsa

Ready in

Prep time: 5 minutes

Cook time: 10 minutes

Ingredients

- 1½ lb lean grilling steak, such as New York strip or top sirloin
- 4 (1" thick) slices of fresh pineapple
- 1 green jalapeno sliced lengthwise in half, seeds and ribs removed
- 1/3 cup diced red onion
- 3 Tbsp chopped cilantro
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 Tbsp lemon juice
- Salt

Directions

1. In a large grill pan or barbeque, cook steak until desired doneness. For medium rare, cook until temperature reaches 135 F. Let sit for 10 minutes.

2. Meanwhile, grill pineapple and jalapeno pepper for about five minutes, just until grill marks appear on both sides.

3. Dice pineapple and jalapeno and add to bowl. Add remaining ingredients. Slice steak thinly, fan out on platter and top with salsa.

Nutrition per serving (recipe serves 4)

- Calories 300
- Protein 37 g
- Carbohydrates 55 g
- Fibre 1 g
- Total fat 13 g

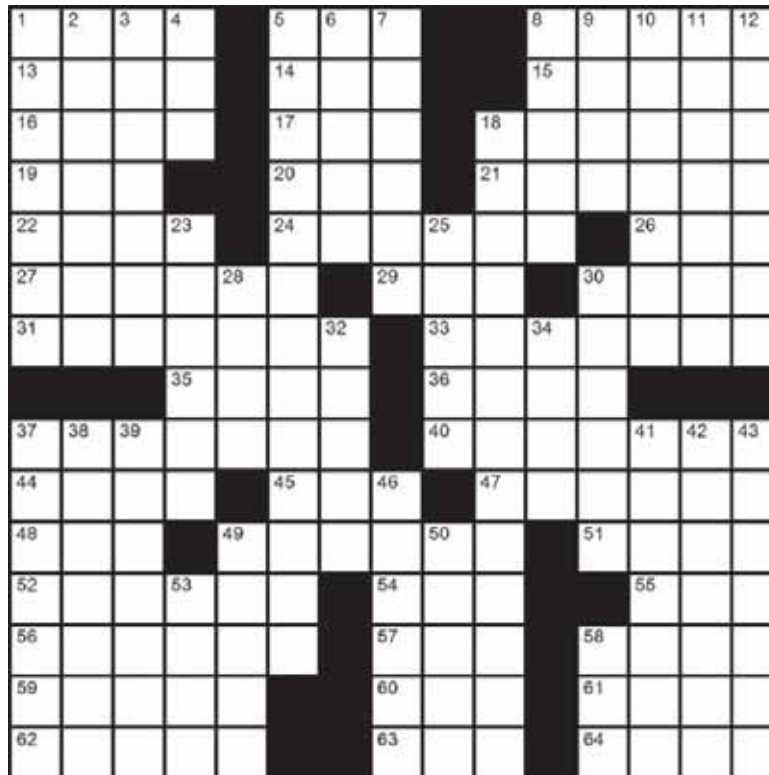
PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN

ACROSS

- Boarding locale at the airport
- Soldiers see action in it
- Farm figure's filling
- Wild goat
- Charlemagne's li'l domain
- 8th Greek letter
- Small estuaries
- NHL Oilers, on scoreboards
- ___ Creek, Yukon (The most westerly community in Canada)
- Actor's rep
- Rapa ___ (Easter Island)
- Narrated again
- Food assortment
- Woodstock farmer, Max (b.1919 - d.1973)
- Grow a Pinocchio nose
- Debut
- NBA's Kings, on scoreboards
- At any point
- State of blessed happiness
- Pre-Target-in-Canada stores
- Prefix to 'culture'
- Mr. Zatopek of Olympic track
- Pope Francis' jurisdiction: 2 wds.
- Newfoundland rum
- Whizzes
- Health supplements store
- Kylie Minogue's sister
- Gathered
- Pristina's locale
- Bilko, et al.
- Damsel
- Clamour
- Commuter service, e.g.
- Main course
- Ms. Lupino



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- Damsel
- Clamour
- Commuter service, e.g.
- Main course
- Ms. Lupino

- "Farewell!"
- The constellation Orion's shiniest star
- First word in Inferno by Dante
- Stars sci.
- Bulk-carrying barges
- The Panthe-

- on member
- Curds and ___

DOWN

- Animal on classic Canadian kids show "The Friendly Giant"
- Ms. Breslin of movies

- Item for serving beverages to have with cucumber sandwiches: 2 wds.
- "All My ___ Live in Texas" by George Strait
- Bryan Adams' duet with Melanie C: 3 wds.

- Per ___ ad astra (Through adversity to the stars)
- Inattentive
- Ranch animal
- "___ '70s Show"
- Orbit
- Designer's studio
- Tower of London guards, Yeomen ___
- "Hard Core Logo" (1996) director born in Kingston, ON: 2 wds.
- Written works
- Fixed staves
- Slangy-style smokes
- "Grey's Anatomy" star Ms. Pompeo's
- Demeanors
- Former currency in Italy
- The Road ___ (Canadian country band)
- ___ Flight 815, as per "Lost"
- Oscar-winning "Frozen" (2013) song: 3 wds.
- Vancouver's ___ Bay
- Sodium ___ (Food additive)
- Explorers, Confederation, The Last Spike, etc. = Canadian ___
- Programmer's skill
- Stability providers for boats
- VOD = ___ On Demand
- Ms. Barrymore
- Crow's cry

★ IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries March 21 - April 20

Get out and about as much as you can over the next few days. Your bubbly personality will attract people to you and doors will open just when you need them to open.

♉ Taurus April 21 - May 21

It might be a good idea not to make any money-related decisions for the time being. The Sun's move into the financial area of your chart will show you ways to boost your income but don't go at it too quickly.

♊ Gemini May 22 - June 21

A new solar year begins for you today and you must start it in the right frame of mind. All the bad things that happened in recent months are no longer of any concern. Only the good things that are going to happen matter now.

♊ Cancer June 22 - July 23

Don't do things for other people that they really should be doing for themselves. As the Sun moves into the most sensitive area of your chart today someone may try to make you feel guilty so they can take advantage of you. Don't let them.

♊ Leo July 24 - Aug. 23

You will see results today, tomorrow and over the weekend for something you started earlier in the year and that's good because you were thinking of giving up. Stick it out. The tide is about to turn.

♊ Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Try not to think of everything that happens in terms of win or lose. With the Sun crossing the career angle of your chart today you are sure to be more competitive than usual.

♊ Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

There were times of late when you did not have the first idea what was going on but now the Sun is moving in your favour again you will see with the utmost clarity — and what you see will most likely delight you.

♊ Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

You don't have to be nice to people just because you think it is expected of you. If you don't want to associate with certain individuals, for whatever reason, that is your right — use it or lose it.

♊ Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Go out of your way to be nice to partners, loved ones and colleagues today because you will be depending on them a lot over the next few weeks. Do what you can to make life easier for them and you will get plenty in return.

♊ Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

You may have to make some minor adjustments to your working routine over the next few days but that's okay. The more you change now the less you will have to change later.

♊ Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

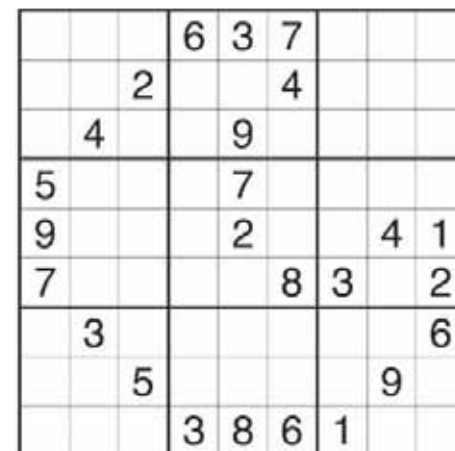
The negative frame of mind you have been labouring under in recent weeks will disappear either today or tomorrow and everything will be light again. Well, almost. You will still have to deal with a few annoying people.

♊ Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20

The Sun's move into the domestic area of your chart today means you need to devote more time to your family. Whatever your duties in other directions your main responsibility now is to those who depend on you the most.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9



Difficulty Level ★★★

3/19



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